

House File 2322 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2322

BY INGELS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the agricultural commodities produced
2 in this state, including the preparation or processing of
3 agricultural commodities into local food, by providing for
4 the membership of the local food and farm program council,
5 and the local food and farm program.
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 267A.2, Code 2022, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. "*Secretary*" means the secretary of
4 agriculture.

5 Sec. 2. Section 267A.3, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2022,
6 are amended by striking the subsections and inserting in lieu
7 thereof the following:

8 2. The council shall be composed of the following voting
9 members:

10 a. The secretary or the secretary's designee.

11 b. The following persons appointed by the secretary:

12 (1) Four farmers each of whom shall produce an agricultural
13 commodity in this state used to prepare or process a local
14 food. A farmer must be actively engaged in the on-farm
15 preparation or processing of an agricultural commodity into
16 local food. The farmer must offer the local food for sale in
17 this state directly to consumers. The secretary must appoint
18 farmers actively engaged in producing each of the following:

19 (a) Livestock used to produce meat products.

20 (b) Poultry used to produce poultry products.

21 (c) Dairy animals used to produce milk and dairy products.

22 (d) Fruit or vegetables to be washed or to be produced, cut,
23 canned, or otherwise processed into products.

24 (2) Two managers of firms each of whom shall represent
25 different types of processors of agricultural commodities doing
26 business in this state. A manager shall be actively engaged
27 in the purchase of agricultural commodities from farmers, the
28 preparation or processing of those commodities into local food,
29 and the resale of the local food to distributors on a wholesale
30 basis in this state. The secretary must appoint managers
31 actively engaged in the sale of the following:

32 (a) Meat products, poultry products, or milk or dairy
33 products.

34 (b) Fruits or vegetables, fruit products, or vegetable
35 products.

1 (3) One manager of a wholesale distributor of local
2 food doing business in this state. The manager must be
3 actively engaged in the purchase of local food prepared or
4 processed from agricultural commodities by processors, and
5 in the marketing of local food on a wholesale basis to food
6 establishments in this state.

7 (4) Three managers of food establishments doing business
8 in this state. Each manager must be actively engaged in the
9 purchase of local food prepared or processed from agricultural
10 commodities produced in this state, the purchase of the
11 local food from wholesale distributors, and the marketing or
12 distribution of the local food to consumers in this state.
13 The secretary must appoint managers actively engaged in the
14 operation of the following:

15 (a) A grocery store.

16 (b) A food service provider distributing food to any of the
17 following:

18 (i) Students attending a public or private school from
19 kindergarten through grade twelve.

20 (ii) Children attending a center for early education.

21 (c) A food service provider distributing local food to an
22 institution not attended by children.

23 (5) Four heads of local or regional community food
24 organizations doing business in this state. Each head must be
25 actively engaged in promoting the well-being of Iowans through
26 the distribution of local food prepared or processed from
27 agricultural commodities produced in this state. The local or
28 regional food community organizations shall include all of the
29 following:

30 (a) The regional food system working group.

31 (b) The food hub managers working group.

32 (c) The farm to school and early care coalition.

33 (d) The food system coalition.

34 (6) An attorney practicing in areas of food and agricultural
35 law.

1 (7) An employee of a government entity who specializes in
2 nutrition programs.

3 3. The secretary may invite interested organizations to
4 submit nominations of candidates eligible to be appointed to
5 the council. A designee of the secretary or a member appointed
6 by the secretary serves at the pleasure of the secretary.

7 Sec. 3. Section 267A.6, Code 2022, is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 **267A.6 Local food and farm program.**

10 1. The local food and farm program coordinator, with advice
11 from the local food and farm program council, shall develop and
12 administer a local food and farm program necessary to carry out
13 the purpose and goals of this chapter as provided in section
14 267A.1, including but not limited to by improving any of the
15 following.

16 1. 2. In administering the program, the coordinator may
17 sponsor and fund projects that do any of the following:

18 a. Communication Improve communication and cooperation
19 between and among farmers, food entrepreneurs, and consumers.

20 2. b. Coordination Improve communication between and
21 among government agencies, public universities and community
22 colleges, organizations, and private-sector firms working on
23 local food and farm-related issues.

24 c. Demonstrate the value of processing, distributing, and
25 marketing local foods. A demonstration project must be capable
26 of being replicated on a statewide basis.

27 **EXPLANATION**

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 **BACKGROUND.** Code chapter 267A establishes an initiative
31 related to the production, processing, distribution, and
32 marketing of agricultural commodities produced in this state
33 and food products prepared or processed from those agricultural
34 commodities in this state. The initiative is administered
35 by a local food and farm program council (council) which is

1 established within the department of agriculture and land
2 stewardship (DALs) and is comprised of five members. The
3 membership includes the secretary of agriculture (secretary) or
4 a designee; a member appointed by the Iowa farmers union and a
5 member appointed by the Iowa farmers market association; and
6 three members appointed by the governor, including a person
7 associated with a resource conservation and development office,
8 a person actively engaged in the production, processing, and
9 distribution of food products; and a person from the regional
10 food systems working group (Code section 267A.3). It also
11 establishes the position of local food and farm program
12 coordinator (coordinator) within Iowa state university of
13 science and technology (Code section 267A.4). The coordinator,
14 with advice from the council, administers a local food and farm
15 program (program) to improve communication and cooperation
16 between and among farmers, food entrepreneurs, and consumers;
17 and to foster coordination between and among government
18 agencies and private-sector firms working on local food and
19 farm-related issues. The program is supported by a local food
20 and farm program fund established within DALs (Code section
21 267A.5).

22 BILL'S PROVISIONS. The secretary or secretary's designee
23 remains on the council but other members are replaced by 16
24 persons appointed by the secretary. The membership includes
25 four farmers engaged in producing agricultural commodities
26 (livestock, poultry, vegetables, and fruits). The farmers
27 must be engaged in the on-farm processing of the commodities
28 into food products for retail sale. The membership must also
29 include two managers of processing firms engaged in processing
30 agricultural commodities into food products for sale to
31 distributors on a wholesale basis, a manager of a distributor
32 involved in the sale of food products to food establishments
33 on a wholesale basis, three managers of food establishments
34 distributing food products to consumers, four heads of local or
35 regional community organizations interested in providing food

1 services to individuals, an attorney practicing agricultural
2 or food law, and an employee of a government entity interested
3 in nutrition programs. Finally, the bill expands the program
4 by allowing the coordinator in consultation with the council
5 to demonstrate the value of processing, distributing, and
6 marketing locally produced and processed foods.